

USBC Equipment Specification and Certification Committee changes cor specification

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USBC News

Proactive response meant to make sport more consistent

On Feb. 9, the **United States Bowling Congress Equipment Specification and Certification Committee** agreed to implement a change regarding the Coefficient of Restitution of bowling balls.

COR is the transfer of energy from one object to another; in this case, from the bowling ball to the pin. This new bowling ball specification changes the upper limit from 0.78 to 0.75 and will take effect March 15. The numbered limit (0.75) is actually the percentage of the energy transferred in the ball striking the pins. The United States Golf Association refers to COR as a "the spring-like effect," and its upper limit is 0.83.

"The System of Bowling continues to be evaluated," said USBC Director of Sport Jeff Henry. "While we have recently established a density specification for bowling ball materials and made changes to the Coefficient of Friction, Radius of Gyration and now the COR, USBC is committed to conducting a thorough review of each element of the System of Bowling and implementing changes as deemed necessary to ensure the integrity and protect the future of the sport."

All bowling ball manufacturers have been notified of this change. Previously released balls that have been approved will remain approved (grandfathered in). Any re-release of a previously approved ball will have to be submitted for testing and meet the new specifications. This change would not affect bowling balls produced in the last two years.

"With the evolution of cover stock materials there has been a corresponding migration in COR readings to the upper portions of the range," said USBC Director of Research Neil Stremmel. "Unlike the recently implemented RG Differential change which affected balls currently on the market, this change is mainly proactive to preclude further migration by the next generation of bowling balls."

The USBC Specifications and Certification testing facility, opened in 1977, is an eight-lane center in a climate-controlled building where team members regulate and standardize bowling equipment by concentrating on pin and product testing, research work, bowling center certifications and lane dressing inspections. The staff provides lane-conditioning support for a variety of tournaments and Sport Bowling events. The Specifications and Certification team consists of engineers, technicians and support staff.

Since the mid-1980s, Specifications and Certification also has approved products for international competition such as the World Tenpin Bowling Association and the Federation Internationale des Quilleurs.